

IN THE CLAIMS

1. – 9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A method of treating symptoms associated with a disease or condition, comprising:

assessing treatment options for treatment of a disease or condition in a subject;

measuring the level of activation of white blood cells in a subject with a disease or condition by assays that measure one or more of the level of free radical production, pseudopod formation, adhesion molecule expression and degranulation;

determining if the level of activation [[if]] is elevated;

if the level of cell activation is elevated, administering activation lowering therapy comprising administration of ~~a protease inhibitor~~ 6-amidino-2-naphthyl p-guanidinobenzoate dimethanesulfonate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, acid, ester and other derivatives thereof, prior to commencing treatment for the disease or condition or with treatment for the disease or condition, thereby improving treatment outcome or reducing risk of the treatment for the disease or condition; ~~and~~

administering treatment for the symptoms associated with the disease or condition; and repeating the steps of measuring, determining and administering activation lowering therapy and administering treatment, as needed to ease the symptoms associated with the disease or condition.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the disease or condition treated is selected from cardiovascular disease, inflammatory disease, trauma, autoimmune diseases, arthritis, diabetes and diabetic complications, stroke, ischemia and Alzheimer's disease.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the treatment for the disease or condition is surgery, treatment of unstable angina or treatment for trauma.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10, wherein the protease inhibitor is selected from among α_1 -proteinase inhibitor (α_1 -antitrypsin), α_2 -macroglobin, inter- α_1 -trypsin inhibitor, and α_1 -antichymotrypsin.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10, wherein the disease or condition is selected from the group consisting of myocardial infarction, stroke, hemorrhagic shock, diabetic retinopathy, diabetes and venous insufficiency.

18. – 31. (Cancelled).

32. (Currently amended) A method of treating symptoms associated with a disease or condition, comprising:

testing cell activation level of white blood cells in a subject by assays that measure one or more of the level of free radical production, pseudopod formation, adhesion molecule expression and degranulation;

determining if the level is elevated; and

if the white blood cell activation level is elevated, administering or undertaking cell activation lowering therapy comprising administration of ~~a protease inhibitor~~ 6-amidino-2-naphthyl p-guanidinobenzoate dimethanesulfonate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, acid, ester and other derivatives thereof, to lower the level of cell activation, thereby reducing the risk of a poor outcome of a treatment of a disease or condition;

repeating the steps of testing, determining and administering or undertaking cell activation lowering therapy as needed to ease the symptoms associated with the disease or condition.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 32, wherein activation lowering therapy comprises modifications in diet and/or lifestyle.

34. (Canceled).

35. (Cancelled).

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34, wherein the protease inhibitor is selected from among α_1 -proteinase inhibitor (α_1 -antitrypsin), α_2 -macroglobulin, inter- α_1 -trypsin inhibitor, and α_1 -antichymotrypsin.

37. (Canceled).

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 32, wherein activation lowering therapy comprises dialysis.

39. – 42. (Canceled).